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Kernan Announces Training Grant for Westfield's Century Marble Co. and Centura Solid Surfacing

INDIANAPOLIS – Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that Westfield's Century Marble Co. and its subsidiary Centura Solid Surfacing have received a \$9,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Skills Enhancement Fund.

The companies, which are owned by Ron and Jean Maurer, share manufacturing and showroom facilities. Century Marble Co. manufactures and sells cultured marble, while Centura Solid Surfacing produces a man-made, stone-like product, both of which are used in a variety of items such as vanities, tubs, sinks, countertops and wall panels.

Located in Hamilton County, the companies will use the Commerce grant to train 35 existing and six new employees following a \$150,000 investment in equipment and facility expansion. Training in gauge reading, problem solving, team building and machining will be offered as a result of the funding.

"As companies like Century Marble and Centura grow, they must invest in their employees in order to ensure the continued quality of their products," said Kernan, who serves as director of the Indiana Department of Commerce. "By making this commitment to their workforces, these two companies are securing their ability to successfully compete for years to come."

Founded in 1976, Century Marble Co. was acquired by the Maurers in 1985. The company specializes in cultured marble products, which are composites of powdered marble, resin and pigmentation. In 1988, Centura products, which are formulated from high-tech resins and natural minerals, were added.

"We are extremely pleased to be awarded the training grant from the Indiana Department of Commerce," said Ben Maurer, Century Marble Co. general manager. "The grant assists our efforts towards continued growth as a company. In addition, the grant allows Century Marble Co., Inc. to provide additional opportunities to our employees."

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Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Business Development Division at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web Site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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